

- Thank you for the kind introduction.
- I would like to thank all of those involved in putting together the 27th Annual Cyprus and Hellenic Leadership Conference, with a special thank you to Mr. Andrew Manatos the President of the Coordinated Effort of Hellenes, who works diligently every year to bring together the most prominent Greek-American leaders from across the country with leaders here in D.C.
- I am truly honored to accept this award today as a symbol of the invaluable and historic relationship between the great nations of Greece and the United States.
- The United States is a country of immigrants and it would not be the country it is today without the contributions of Greek-Americans.
- The United States and Greece have enjoyed a long-standing friendship based on cultural, political, economic and military ties.
- And with today's ever growing global challenges, it is more important than ever that we continue to strengthen our committed partnership to ensure strong international cooperation.
- I am also strongly committed to supporting our Greek allies in the settlement process of the Cyprus issue.
- After my visit to Cyprus several years ago, I saw first-hand the violations of human rights and anti-democratic measures that have occurred on the island for the past decades.
- It is my hope that soon Cyprus will reach a settlement that will lead to a fair and lasting agreement for the benefit of all Cypriots.

- Thank you again for this great honor and thank you all for your support of the Hellenic Community.